

## Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/058 W

----- 051299

R 171120Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4699

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3953

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: EMBASSY COMMENT TO BOMBAY 671 (NEW DELHI 3950)

ON GUJARAT IN THE WAKE OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE JANATA  
FRONT GOVERNMENT

1. THE MAIN QUESTION ON THE GUJARAT SITUATION THAT REMAINS TO BE ANSWERED IS HOW LONG CONGRESS-R LEADERS WILL REQUIRE TO ABSORB SUFFICIENT DEFECTORS FROM JANATA FRONT AND INDEPENDENT RANKS TO ENABLE THEM TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. THE CONGRESS-R MP QUOTED IN NEW DELHI 3777 PREDICTED THREE TO FOUR MONTHS. A SENIOR GUJARAT STATE CIVIL SERVANT TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT ONLY SIX TO TWELVE WEEKS WILL BE REQUIRED. HE SAID THAT THE GUJARAT GOVERNOR HAS ADVISED THE CENTER NOT TO SEND AN ADMINISTRATOR TO RUN THE STATE (AS IS CUSTOMARY) IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME PERIOD ANTICIPATED BEFORE THE FORMATION OF A CONGRESS-R GOVERNMENT. GPCC PRESIDENT AND EX-CONGRESS-O CHIEF MINISTER, HITENDRA DESAI, IS THE LEADING CANDIDATE FOR THE NEXT CHIEF MINISTER. HE DEFECTED FROM CONGRESS-O TO CONGRESS-R LAST YEAR FOLLOWING THE JUNE STATE ELECTIONS.

2. THE TOPPLING OF THE LAST OPPOSITION STATE GOVERNMENT IN INDIA HAS SPARKED A NEW SPURT OF DEFECTIONS NOT ONLY IN  
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GUJARAT BUT IN OTHER STATES AS WELL. NINE (MOSTLY EX-KMLP)

INDEPENDENTS, ONE CONGRESS-O AND ONE JANA SANGH STATE  
LEGISLATORS HAVE SO FAR EITHER JOINTED CONGRESS-R OR  
ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT FOR CONGRESS-R IN GUJARAT OVER THE  
LAST SEVERAL DAYS. SINCE MAY 13, 29 BLD STATE LEGISL-

ATORS IN ORISSA, ONE CONGRESS-O MLC IN BIHAR, ONE DMK MLC  
IN TAMIL NADU AND ONE AKALI DAL MLA IN THE PUNJAB HAVE ABAN-  
DONED THEIR PARTIES.

MOST HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO JOIN CONGRESS-R.  
THE ONGOING DEFECTION VIRUS AMONG INDIA'S VARIETY OF  
OPPOSITION PARTIES CANNOT BUT FURTHER DEFLATE PROSPECTS  
AND MORALE AMONG THE NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION LEADERS  
WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO PATCH TOGETHER A MERGED OPPOSTION  
PARTY IN INDIA.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OPPOSITION PARTIES, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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